

**ALABAMA ETHICS COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**October 5, 2022**

**9:30 a.m.**

**9<sup>th</sup> Floor, RSA Union Building  
Montgomery, Alabama**

The Alabama Ethics Commission met on October 5, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in the Purchasing Division Auditorium on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the RSA Union Building.

**Commission Members Present:**

Honorable John Plunk, Chair  
Honorable Lyn Stuart, Ret. Chief Justice, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Stanton H. McDonald, Member  
Honorable BG (R) Edward Crowell (USAF), Member

**Commission Members Absent:**

**Commission Staff Present:**

Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director  
Brian Paterson, Assistant General Counsel  
Cynthia Raulston, Special Assistant to the Director  
Byron Butler, Executive Assistant to the Director  
Chris Clark, Chief Special Agent  
Dustin Lansford, Senior Special Agent  
Brian Baker, Special Agent  
Melvin Howard, Special Agent  
April Innes, Special Investigator  
Cara Stapleton, Special Investigator  
Concietta Auls, Administrative Support Assistant II

Mr. Plunk served as chair for the meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m., and introduced Mr. McDonald, who gave the invocation.

**Old Business:**

Approval of the minutes from the August 2, 2022, meeting:

*Chief Justice Stuart moved to adopt the minutes as written. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**New Business:**

**FCPA Appeals**

**Steve Sawyer**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. Steve Sawyer spoke on his behalf. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the penalties and offenses. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Kerri Page Parker**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the penalties and offense. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Julie Borrelli**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Mr. McDonald moved to reduce fine to \$705.20 and uphold the offenses. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Friends of Chelsea City Schools**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Mr. McDonald moved to set aside the penalty and uphold the offense. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Carita Venable**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the penalty and uphold the offense. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**William A. Dailey**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the penalties and offenses. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Dennis Price Spence**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the penalty and offense. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Portia Shepherd**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell*

*moved to set aside the penalties and offenses. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Anita Lee Kelly**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to uphold the penalty and offense that were imposed. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Kimberly Renee Rawls**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. Kimberly Rawls spoke on her behalf. *General Crowell moved to set aside the penalties and offenses that were imposed. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**William Nathan Mathis**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the penalties and offenses that were imposed. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Fred Kelley**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. Tim McKenzie and Fred Kelley spoke. *Chief Justice Stuart moved to set aside the penalty and offense that was imposed. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Alisha Ruffin May**

*\*Appeal Withdrawn\**

**Timothy S. Andrews**

Mr. Paterson explained the request for the Civil Penalty Appeal. Sarah Telofski, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Secretary of State was present to speak and answer any questions. *General Crowell moved to set aside the penalties and offenses that were imposed. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

*At 10:24 a.m. Mr. McDonald moved that the Commission go into Executive Session. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

*At 12:34 p.m. General Crowell moved that the Commission go back into Open Session. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2021-0364**

**Joshua Parker, Fire Chief, Town of Thorsby**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists insufficient facts to hold that Joshua Parker, has violated the Alabama Ethics Act. She further moved that this case be closed. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2021-0391**

**Gladys Thomas, Financial Services Coordinator, AL Industrial Development Training Institute**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Gladys Thomas has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2021-0400**

**Danny McWilliams, Colbert County Extension Coordinator, Auburn University**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause that Danny McWilliams has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0281**

**Jerry Mitchell, Member, Town of Killen Planning Commission**

*Mr. McDonald moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists probable cause that Jerry Mitchell has violated the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0159**

**Catrina Vawters, Patients Account Manager, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation**

*General Crowell moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that Catrina Vawters has committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0226**

**Lori Blackmon, Employee, Jacksonville State University**

*Chief Justice Stuart moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, cause to hold that Lori Blackmon committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the*

***District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.***

**Case No. 2022-0236**

**Kimberly Knighton, Magistrate, City of Millbrook**

***Mr. Plunk moved that based on the evidence as presented to this Commission, there exists cause to hold that that Kimberly Knighton committed one minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act, and further moved that this case be handled administratively and referred for review and appropriate legal action to the District Attorney of the appropriate Judicial Circuit. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.***

**Cases Recommended for Dismissal**

The following cases were presented to the Commission by Executive Director Albritton, with the recommendation that they be dismissed: Case No. 2021-0339; Case No. 2021-0384; Case No. 2021-0385; Case No. 2021-0407; Case No. 2022-0024; Case No. 2022-0040; Case No. 2022-0062; Case No. 2022-0083; Case No. 2022-0086; Case No. 2022-0118 and Case No. 2022-0184. ***Chief Justice Stuart moved that the Commission dismiss the cases as recommended. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.***

**Case No. 2021-0301**

**Derek Lawrence, Police Officer, City of Foley**

***Mr. Plunk moved that on August 2, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Derek Lawrence, Police Officer, City of Foley, had committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before August 17, 2022. Accordingly, Plunk moved as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$100.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before November 30, 2022; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.***

**Case No. 2021-0302**

**Nicole Phillips, Chief Corrections Officer, City of Foley**

***Mr. Plunk moved that on August 2, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Nicole Phillips, Chief Corrections Officer, City of Foley, had committed a minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before August 17, 2022. Accordingly, Plunk moved as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$100.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before November 30, 2022; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.***

**Case No. 2021-0401**

**Susan Coke, Administrative Support Assistant, Auburn University**

*Mr. Plunk moved that on August 2, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Susan Coke, Administrative Support Assistant, Auburn University, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before August 30, 2022. Accordingly, Plunk moved as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$100.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before November 30, 2022; 2) Restitution in the amount of \$124.22 was paid to the Ethics Commission on or about July 29, 2022 and will be disbursed to Auburn University thereafter. General Crowell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**Case No. 2022-0164**

**Tyler Murphy, Police Officer, City of Roanoke**

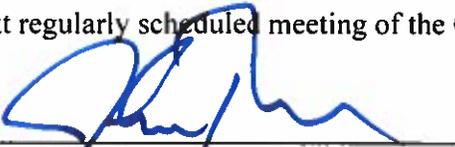
*General Crowell moved that on August 2, 2022, the Alabama Ethics Commission unanimously found Tyler Murphy, Police Officer, City of Roanoke / Former Police Chief, Town of Wadley Officer, had committed one (1) minor violation of the Alabama Ethics Act and approved an administrative resolution at the request of the Respondent. The Commission forwarded the case to the District Attorney of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit who approved the administrative resolution on or before August 18, 2022. Accordingly, Crowell moved as follows: 1) An administrative penalty in the amount of \$200.00 be ordered by the Commission to be paid to the Ethics Commission by cashier's check, money order, or online payment on or before November 30, 2022; 2) There is no restitution owing for this minor violation. Mr. Plunk seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

**No Other Matters**

**Adjournment**

*There being no further business at 12:46 p.m., General Crowell moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Chief Justice Stuart seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with all those present voting.*

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission is December 7, 2022.

  
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John Plunk, Chair

  
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Thomas B. Albritton, Executive Director

  
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Byron Butler, Recording Secretary